

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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GUIDE FOR MUNICIPALITIES DESIGNED TO SPUR GROWTH IN CONNECTICUT FARMS

By Steve Jensen
Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

Seeking to increase collaboration with towns and cities on agricultural initiatives of all kinds, the Department of Agriculture has published "A Guide for Municipalities" that outlines the department's programs and services and encourages engagement by town officials and citizens.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said he hopes the guide will help continue the expansion of Connecticut's agricultural sector, which leads New England with the creation of more than 1,000 new farms between 2007 and 2012 - the last census done by the USDA.

The University of Connecticut has estimated the state's agricultural sector contributes \$3.5 billion in economic activity in the state and employs as many as 28,000 people.

"Whether your municipality is home to land used for the production of vegetables, fruits, horticultural crops, tobacco, livestock, hay or for hosting a farmers' market, it is part of Connecticut's important agricultural land base and economic sector," Reviczky wrote in the guide's introduction. "As municipal leaders, you have an opportunity to support the growth of these agricultural businesses, which by nature represent long-term commitments to their communities."

Reviczky said he also believes the guide can be a tool for citizens to use to engage their municipal leaders in a discussion about agricultural development in their community.

The guide opens with a brief overview of the agriculture department, which was created in 1925 and replaced the State Board of Agriculture that was established in 1866.

The department has statutory responsibility for a wide range of programs involving animal health, aquaculture, food and milk safety, agricultural commodities and licensing.

It also has numerous responsibilities for agricultural development and resource preservation, including the promotion of Connecticut Grown farm products, administration of numerous grants to enhance farm viability and resource stewardship management, and the operation of the



Lebanon Town Planner Phil Chester works in a Town Hall conference room under a sign the town purchased with the assistance of a Department of Agriculture grant. The motto on the sign reads "Preserving Our History & Agriculture."

Hartford Regional Market, the largest food-distribution hub between New York and Boston.

As demands on the agency have accelerated, the 63-member department has also experienced significant reductions in staffing levels through attrition, forcing it to streamline operations and increase efficiencies.

A major part of that effort is increasing agency partnerships with local municipalities to grow agriculture, preserve farmland and protect public health and safety in matters related to farming and domestic animals.

The department is currently focused on increasing municipal involvement in its Farmland Preservation Program, under which more than 300 farms and 40,000 acres have been protected from non-agricultural use through the purchase of development rights. Preserved farmland has been shown

to pay more than its fair share in local property taxes, and municipalities can leverage state funds to purchase development rights to active farmland, protecting it permanently.

The program has received annual funding of \$10 million in recent years through state bonding and the Community Investment Act, and its ultimate goal is to protect a total of 130,000 acres.

Funding is also available through the Community Farms Preservation Program, which is geared toward smaller farms that may not qualify for the Farmland Preservation Program.

The guide includes a section on how towns can create a local farmland preservation plan that was

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

LOW HIGH

SLAUGHTER COWS:

breakers 75-80% lean	102.75	107.00
boners 80-85% lean	100.00	105.25
lean 85-90% lean	96.75	102.00

CALVES graded bull

No 1 95-120lbs	363.00	401.25
No 1 80-90lbs	358.25	397.00
No 2 95-120lbs	331.50	365.00
No 2 80-90lbs	360.00	387.50
No 3 80-120lbs	240.00	333.00

SLAUGHTER STEERS

HiCh/Prm2-3	164.00	168.25
Ch1-3	160.00	164.00
Sel1-2	154.00	158.25

SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS

HiCh/Prm2-3	144.00	147.50
Ch2-3	138.75	143.25
Sel1-2	132.50	137.25

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS

HiCh/Prm2-3	161.00	166.00
Ch1-3	155.00	159.50
Sel1-2	143.00	146.00

VEALERS Utility 60-120lb**SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:**

ch/pr 2-3		
40-60 lbs	280.00	285.00
60-80 lbs	270.00	285.00

80-90 lbs	250.00	257.00
90-130 lbs	200.00	202.00
130-200 lbs	164.00	172.00

SLAUGHTER EWES: 2-3

50-60 lbs Good&Choice	130.00	130.00
100-160 lbs Good	70.00	124.00
160-300 lbs Good	70.00	120.00
120-160 lbs Utility 1-3	74.00	97.00

Bucks

140-160lbs	n/a	n/a
170-200 lbs	n/a	n/a
200-350lbs	n/a	n/a

SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.

20-40lb	140.00	160.00
40-60lb	172.00	185.00
60-80lb	195.00	245.00
80-100	240.00	265.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	185.00	210.00
130-180 lbs	185.00	260.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	222.00	270.00
150-250 lbs	240.00	282.00

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US # 1-2 20-30lb	45.00	45.00
30-40 lb	55.00	65.00
50-70 lb	57.00	70.00
110 lbs	72.00	72.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**NEW ENGLAND GROWN****Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LB	14.00	14.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 12/3 USFCY	17.00	17.00
APPLE, HONEYCRISP, 80, USFCY	32.00	32.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 88, US FCY	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DEL, 100, XFCY	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 120, US#1	17.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, 12/3US#1	15.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	4.50	6.00
CIDER, APPLE 9-1/2 GAL	21.00	21.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	22.00	23.00
POTATOES, RUSSET, 50LB, US1	14.00	15.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9 BU	14.00	15.00
TOMATOES, 25LB, GRHSE, VR	20.00	22.00
TOMS, CHRY, ONVINE, 5LB, GHS	25.00	26.00

SHIPPED IN

BROCCOLI, 20LB, CA, CRWN	16.00	20.00
CABBAGE, 50LB, NY	8.00	10.00
CARROTS, BABY, CA 15/2LB2	23.00	24.00
CAULIFLOWER, FILM, 12, AZ	26.00	26.00
CUKES, 1-1/9BU, MED, MEX	22.00	26.00
ORANGES, NAVAL, 88, 7/10, CA	21.00	22.00
PEPPERS, GRN, 1 1/9 BU, FL	10.00	14.00
SPINACH, BABY 4LB, CA	9.50	10.00
STAR FRUIT, 25 CT, FL	15.00	15.00
STRAWBERRIES, 8-1LB, FL	16.00	20.00

**USDA WEEKLY/WHOLESALE PRICES
ORGANIC YOUNG CHICKEN**

Per lb

WHOLE FRYER	1.70	3.32
BNLS/SKNLS BREAST	5.69	10.58
BONE IN BREAST	3.60	6.16
WHOLE LEGS	1.88	4.76
THIGHS	1.95	3.92

HAY**LANCASTER, PA/PRICE PER TON**

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	245.00-380.00	215.00-235.00
MIXED HAY	235.00-410.00	195.00-230.00
TIMOTHY	230.00-360.00	170.00-180.00
STRAW	105.00-220.00	

**USDA/WEEKLY WHOLESALE
ORGANIC BROWN EGGS**

EX LARGE		
DOZ	2.61	3.60
1/2 DOZ	1.80	1.95
LARGE		
DOZ	2.30	3.50
1/2 DOZ	1.71	1.90

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT., February 16, 2015**

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	50.00	55.00
61-75 lbs.	60.00	70.00
76-90 lbs.	240.00	250.00
91-105 lbs.	270.00	280.00
106 lbs. & up	290.00	300.00
Farm Calves	320.00	325.00
Starter Calves	42.00	46.00
Veal Calves	100.00	190.00
Open Heifers	132.50	145.00
Beef Heifers	130.00	139.00
Feeder Steers	145.00	170.00
Beef Steers	n/a	n/a
Stock Bulls	150.00	175.00
Beef Bulls	130.00	137.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	190.00	220.00
Lambs	105.00	230.00
Goats each	105.00	250.00
Kid Goats	n/a	n/a
Canners	up to	109.00
Cutters	110.00	112.00
Utility Grade Cows	113.00	117.50
Rabbits each	5.00	35.00
Chickens each	4.00	19.00
Ducks each	n/a	n/a

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.41	1.58
LARGE	1.35	1.49
MEDIUM	1.23	1.36

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.07	2.17
LARGE	2.03	2.13
MEDIUM	1.52	1.62

NEW HOLLAND, PA.**HOG AUCTION**Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by
hundred wt.

48-52	250-350 lbs	55.00	59.00
52-56	250-300 lbs	63.00	70.00
Sows, US1-3	300-500 lbs	40.00	49.00
Boars	400-700 lbs	12.00	18.00

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

19-R. 1988 International Model 1954, 22 foot body, excellent condition. New tires. \$12,000.00. Call Al 203-223-4853.

20-R. Hay for sale, from fertilized fields. \$5.00 per bale, large bales no kickers. 203-453-9865.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

17-R. Free professional advising sessions for farmers - CT Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Program. One-on-One confidential sessions with an agri-business professional to discuss farm related issues. Dates available Feb., March, April. www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu.

WANTED

18-R. A part-time Office Secretary position is now available at the new Haven County Farm Bureau. The applicant should be able to maintain a small office in the home. The job averages 12 to 15 hours per week. A background or interest in agriculture will be viewed positively. The candidate will be responsible to the organization's board of directors. The candidate should be well organized with excellent interpersonal skills, fundamental computer skills, and the ability to work independently. Duties include: Overall management of the functions of the office, maintaining financial records and organize meetings. For a complete job description, please call the office at 203-269-0151. Compensation will be based upon experience. Please send resume and cover letter explaining why you are interested in the position to the New Haven County Farm Bureau Inc., 1460 Durham Road, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492 by March 6th.

SPECIALTY CROP CONCEPT PROPOSALS SOUGHT

The Department of Agriculture is requesting concept proposal for projects that solely enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, dried fruit, tree nuts, maple syrup, honey, horticulture, and nursery crops.

Projects must impact and produce measurable outcomes for the specialty crop industry and/or the public. Submitted projects cannot begin until after January 1, 2015 and must be completed by September 28, 2018. The maximum award is \$75,000.

For more information and complete application guidelines visit the agency's website, www.ctgrown.gov/grants, or contact Jaime Smith at 860-713-2559 or jaime.smith@ct.gov.

Concept proposal applications are due to the Department of Agriculture by 4:00pm, March 6, 2015.

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written by Lebanon Town Planner Phil Chester, who assembled the guide on behalf of the agriculture department.

"Too often communities focus their limited resources on developing land versus preserving or promoting agriculture," Chester wrote. "Both have their pluses, however, only agriculture provides sustainability in terms of municipal finance, aesthetics, food security, and the environment, which can be appreciated by all. With a limited investment, municipalities can work to preserve their agriculture and create a climate where it can flourish."

Chester also lists a number of strategies that local governments can use to encourage the growth of agriculture, including designating a liaison to the agricultural community, including farmers in any decision-making process, establishing a right-to-farm ordinance, leasing excess municipal land to farmers and obtaining grants from the agricultural department or other sources.

The guide details a number of available grants, including the Farm Viability program that is specifically aimed at local governments for use on capital projects, planning, and other agency-approved agricultural initiatives.

Grants of up to \$49,999 – matched by in-kind municipal services and/or direct expenditures – have benefited nearly one-third of Connecticut's municipalities.

Some examples of funded projects and participants include:

- **Agriculture Product Expansion and Infrastructure Projects:** Branford, Clinton, Farmington, Guilford, New Milford, North Branford, New Haven, Norwich, Putnam, Stratford, Westport, Woodbridge
- **Community Farm Initiatives:** Granby, Middletown, New London, Old Saybrook, Simsbury, Waterbury, Woodbridge
- **Farmers' Market Development:** Bozrah, Columbia, Coventry, East Lyme, Haddam, Hamden, Lebanon, Litchfield, New Haven, Norwalk, Putnam, Southbury, Suffield, Voluntown, Waterbury
- **Farmland Preservation Planning:** Ashford, Branford, Colchester, Guildford, Lebanon, Madison, Middletown, Milford, Salem, Westport
- **Geographic Information System Development:** Bethany, Lebanon, Suffield, Thompson
- **Land Use Education:** Brooklyn, Chaplin, Killingly, Lebanon, Litchfield, New Milford, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Sterling, Stonington, Thompson, Windham, Woodstock
- **Marketing:** Guilford, Killingly, Lebanon, Middletown, Suffield, Thompson
- **Resident Surveys:** Lebanon, Thompson
- **Municipal Fiscal Impact Studies:** Colchester, Lebanon, Thompson
- **Plans of Conservation & Development:** Bloomfield, Canterbury, Lebanon, Ledyard
- **Regional Food System Planning:** New London, Waterbury
- **Agricultural Signage:** Lebanon, Thompson
- **Ag-Friendly Land Use Regulation Development:** East Windsor

The guide also notes that the agriculture department offers a variety of technical assistance to municipalities, including help with negotiating Public Act 63-490 (PA 490), which helps preserve agricultural, forest and open space land by offering property owners the ability to pay taxes at its current use value

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rather than its highest value.

This in turn helps prevent the conversion of farmland into more intensive or non-agricultural uses.

Studies show that local property taxes generated by farmland assessed at PA 490 rates are greater than municipal expenditures to service that land.

The approval of land classification under PA 490 falls upon each community. However, the Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to provide an advisory opinion upon request of any municipality, state agency, tax assessor or any land-owner as to what constitutes agriculture or farming, or open space land.

The guide can be found online at www.CTGrown.gov under "Publications."

Any questions may be directed to the department at 860-713-2500.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. For more information contact Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

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NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR ANNUAL AG JOURNALISM AWARDS

The Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC) is seeking nominations for its annual recognition of outstanding coverage of Connecticut agriculture by the news media in calendar year 2014.

Nominations may be made by anyone in Connecticut with an interest in agriculture, including the entrants themselves. Deadline for nominations is March 2, 2015 and must be made on the official CAIC form, which is available by calling 203-261-9067.

Actual copies of the material must be provided along with the nomination form. Presentation of the awards will be made at Connecticut Agriculture Day at the State Capitol on March 18.

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